Dear Families

A warm welcome is extended to all children and their families for our last term of school this year. The beginning of a term is always a special time for those beginning school for the first time and this term we have children beginning in two Reception classes with either Tiffany Mullin or Abbi Fenton. Sometimes this can be an anxious time for parents as well as children. If you are ever concerned about any aspect of schooling please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher or myself.

This term we welcome 13 reception students and 6 in other year levels. Staff enjoy welcoming new students to our school and we all keep a watchful eye on our ‘newies’. Tomorrow is the free Peter Combe concert, so what a wonderful way to welcome our new students!

This is also the term when staff work collectively on next year’s classes. Earlier this year I provided detailed information about the rationale for classes and rather than repeat this I will just reiterate that the number of classes is entirely dependent upon how many students are actually attending in week 2 of term 1 2010! This term, we do our best guess scenario based on what we know eg Year 7s moving on to high school and new receptions starting and any other movement and then we wait to see if our predictions hold true. To help us please let us know if your child will not be attending Trinity Gardens next year. The number of children in any year level determines whether or not the class will be a straight year level or a composite class. There is no deliberate effort for one type of class over another as children learn equally well whether in a composite or a straight class. In any straight class there will be children operating at five different academic levels and this is the same as a composite class.

So you may wonder what really impacts on a child’s success at school? Recent research suggests it is almost equal between the home and parents and the quality of the teacher and the school. It’s no wonder then that we are always striving for a positive relationship between home and school!

In the class placement process I ask for your trust in our staff who undertake this process in a conscientious manner taking into account a great deal of information about each child.

This complex process considers the following factors for each child:
- Social and emotional maturity
- Learning needs
- Friendship groups
- Relationships with other children
- Gender, ethnicity, and ability balance within each class
- Previous class placements

As I understand that some parents worry about the next year’s classes you are invited to contribute to the process by writing to me with information about friendship groups and special educational requirements that you would like considered when placing your child in a class. Each teacher also makes recommendations for placing children in classes for next year. The staff will seriously consider the information provided by parents but cannot guarantee that all requests will be met. We aim to place each child with at least one of their friends. Once the classes are set, it is very difficult to make alterations because one
change can affect the balance of friendships, ethnicity, gender and learning needs that we try so hard to achieve. Therefore, unfortunately, late letters cannot be accepted. Requests for specific teachers cannot be considered. There will be several new teachers in 2010.

Please address all letters to me personally and marked ‘Confidential’. Letters need to reach me by Monday 2 November. Staff will begin the allocation process on the next day so late letters cannot be accepted. Thank you for your help with the class placement process.

On Monday morning I had no doubt about the worth of the newly painted activity track when I watched children excitedly running around the track. During lesson time students will use the track for fitness and during play time group of friends are using the track in a range of creative ways.

On Wednesday 28 October we will hold our Musical evening in the new Gym. This evening will provide an opportunity to use the newly installed sound system while supporting our budding artists in their performances. I look forward to joining many school community members on this night.

Further to the special newsletter of last term I wish to remind you that the Devitt Ave (OSHC) car park will be out of action for about 4 weeks from late October. In addition, delivery of the next dual transportable is expected on Tuesday 27 October and this may cause some disruption to traffic in Aberdare Ave. As information comes to hand about the Resource Centre redevelopment you will be informed through the newsletter.

Kind regards,
Vicki Stokes

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**WELCOME**

The school community extends a warm welcome to the following students and their families who have joined us this term:


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**STUDENT SAFETY**

School Safety reminder - When coming onto the school grounds (eg to drop off a forgotten lunch, or some other necessity) please come into the school via the front office and inform staff you are on school grounds.

Remember too, if you have gone to the deli to place a school lunch order for your child, you do not then need to deliver the lunch order to your child. The deli delivers the lunch orders to the school just prior to lunch time.

Thank you.

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**Reading Workshop For Reception Parents**

Join our Intervention Team
(Clare and Harriet)
for a reading workshop.

When: Wednesday, 21 October 2009
Times: 9:00am to 10:00am
6:30pm to 7:30pm.

Place: The Resource Centre/Library

Topics covered: How to support your child’s reading. Reading strategies. How to encourage your child and keep them motivated. Reading for meaning.

We look forward to working with you.

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**Trinity Gardens Musical Evening**

Wednesday, 28 October 2009
6.30pm
In the Gym

The Annual Musical Evening is a great event for the students in our school to show off their artistic talents!

We hope you can join us for this fun evening.

If your child is involved, please make sure they are dropped off by 6pm for set up before the show. Thank you.

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**Have you ever thought about being a foster carer?**

Anglicare SA is in urgent need of foster carers to provide homes for children in your local community.

If you are interested you are invited to attend an information evening.
Campbelltown Function Centre
20 Oct 2009, 6.30pm–8.30pm.
172 Montacute Rd Rostrevor.

For further details P: 1300 2367 837
What is our address in space? What causes night and day? How big is the Sun?

These are a few of the questions investigated by Room 14J during term 3. The class used a tennis ball and two other larger balls to demonstrate the revolving of the Earth on its own axis and rotating around the sun.

Cooper and Gianluca measuring their 2 square court

Shadows were observed during different parts of the day and to see when the shadows were the longest during the day. Torches were used to discover whether light is straight or not.

Chris and Ryan are measuring the length of the shadow at this time of day

Measuring was a Maths topic which involved students learning to use a scale to determine the size of planets, their diameter and the distance from the sun. This knowledge was used to construct a poster of the planets. Students also drew plans to scale of 2 square courts and hop-scotches. Many students modified their plans after drawing and using the courts and hop-scotches.

During Healthy Bones Week 14J looked at the different bones in the body and learnt their names. Carol Spargo visited from Arthritis SA and students saw a cross section of a bone and learnt about the different ways to keep their bones healthy including dairy foods and exercise. X-rays were observed and students tried to work out how they worked.

Jack learns the names of the bones on the skeleton

A mosaic project involved all the children and many of the parents during the term. Students learnt the many forms of patterning by exploring mosaics using smarties in patterns on biscuits, ruling up 1cm squares and using them to form a pattern and constructing 5 giant snails to put on the new gym. The students also learnt the art of collaboration, teamwork and persistence as they worked on their particular snail.

Most students dressed up in space costumes

Students used their persuasive writing skills learnt in week 4 to encourage their grandparents to visit the classroom in Bookweek. Thankfully many of them were able to oblige and we spent an enjoyable morning sharing their learning in the classroom.

Space Safari was the theme for the Bookweek parade and costumes were varied and interesting.

Research skills and a webquest initiated by Steph continued in the classroom and formed the basis of their SOSE lessons. Interesting and informative websites enabled the students to observe all the planets revolving around the sun. Students learnt how old they would be on each planet and investigated which planet they would like or be able to live on. Each group chose a planet to investigate, make a model of and determine what they’d need to survive there.

Lee helping a group with their snail mosaic

Jan supervising the groups with the mosaic

Skye gluing her 1cm squares on her mosaic
Last term our class was learning about Minibeasts. We went on a Schoolyard Safari to discover what minibeasts we have in our school. In the vegetable garden we found caterpillars, worms, snails, ants and even a butterfly flew past us! We then recorded what minibeasts we had seen on our walk. We have learnt that minibeasts are small creatures that do not have a backbone. We recorded all the minibeasts we could brainstorm on an A-Z key.

We went on an excursion to the Botanical Gardens. We went into the rainforest of the Bicentennial Conservatory where we were able to meet and handle some of the bugs. We learnt about the importance of 'minibeasts' to all life. Some of the minibeasts we saw were a cockroach, stick insect, spiders, millipede and praying mantis. We learnt that you should never touch any spiders! We also learnt that millipedes have 216 legs and their bodies are made up of segments, each segment has 4 legs. At school we have been looking at symmetrical patterns on butterflies and how many minibeasts use camouflage to protect themselves.

Last term we celebrated Bookweek and we decided we would dress up as minibeasts. We had lots of butterflies, bees, ladybirds and spiders. In Literacy we have been reading lots of stories about minibeasts. The children love the story of the 'Very Hungry Caterpillar' and 'The Clumsy Click Beetle' by Eric Carle and many of his other books. We have been sorting minibeasts into categories of those that can fly/ cannot fly and those that have 6 legs/more than 6/ no legs. The children have been asking inquiry based questions about minibeasts. "Is a caterpillar an insect, is a turtle a minibeast?"

Last term we became experts on minibeasts and we went to the Conservatory where we were able to meet and handle some of the bugs. We learnt about the importance of minibeasts to all life. Some of the minibeasts we saw were a cockroach, stick insect, spiders, millipede and praying mantis. We learnt that you should never touch any spiders! We also learnt that millipedes have 216 legs and their bodies are made up of segments, each segment has 4 legs. At school we have been looking at symmetrical patterns on butterflies and how many minibeasts use camouflage to protect themselves.
Science and Drama in Room 4

During our topic of Space in term 3 we looked at models of our moon orbiting Earth and of the planets in our solar system orbiting the sun and rotating. We observed and recorded the changing shape of the moon and used the results to determine that it takes about 29 days for the moon to orbit Earth.

In Science we investigated Energy. We looked at the different ways that we use electricity every day and have suggested alternative ways of producing light and heat. We analysed the benefits of some of the different energy sources.

We classified vehicles according to their energy source and experimented to see if we could power toy cars using wind. The children made pinwheels and attached them in a variety of ways to the cars to see if they would move in the wind (generated by an electric fan!) We then experimented with different designs of pinwheels - making them bigger, stronger or lighter to see if it made a difference to the performance.

Drama this term has focused on further developing the children's creativity and confidence. We have written short poems in small groups and acted them out with the emphasis on voice projection, interesting actions and having the characters performing at different heights.
Italiano 2009!

Language learning is structured around 3 main interrelated strands - communication, language and culture. The purpose of these strands is to support a gradual progression toward operating with increasing independence in the Italian language.

**Italian sounds like**

- Ciao e Buongiorno
- Come stai?
- Io mi chiamo.......
- Piacere e Per Pavore
- Grazie e prego
- Benvenuti e Arrivederci

**Songs and poems**

The Italian classroom is

- Creative and colourful
- Collaborative
- Energetic and expressive
- Purposeful and inclusive of the virtues
Quiz Night

16 days to go!

Get your thinking caps on!

Friday 30 October, 2009  7pm
Trinity Gardens School Gym

Licensed Bar --- No BYO Alcohol

> GAMES > > RAFFLES > > SILENT AUCTION

Bring along your loose change to participate in all the fun and games. All money raised is going back into our school.

-Pre Ordered Platters or BYO Supper-

You can pre order a platter from Viva Sustainable Food, this will supply your team with tasty organic brain food! $10 per person.

Collect your order form from the office.

 Helpers Needed!

Can you help out on the night? Helpers are needed to setup, pack up and clean up! Even if you are not attending the quiz night, you can still lend a hand.

Or if you are attending then even better!

Please direct all queries & offers of help to Shane Waite

M: 0417 800 622

 Last Minute Donations?

If you have any last minute donations which can be used for prizes, then please arrange for these to be delivered to the school office by Friday 16th Oct. Thank you.
Cricket News

Cricket begins again this week on Saturday 17 October - a program will be sent home to players as soon as it becomes available.

John Edwards is no longer able to coach our cricket team due to work commitments - we would like to sincerely thank John for his outstanding commitment and helpfulness to our cricketers.

Dave Sutton has kindly volunteered to coach our team this season and is looking forward to working with children and parents in the exciting cricket season for Term 4, 2009.

This season all players are encouraged to wear white clothes for matches.

Dave will be conducting training every Thursday at 4 pm and has asked all players to attend training this week (tomorrow).

Any students interested in playing cricket in this Year 4 and 5 team and/or their parents are asked to contact Ros.

A reminder about the hot weather policy for cricket games: If the forecast temperature for Saturday is 38 degrees or over in the Friday edition of The Advertiser, all games will be cancelled.

The following letter from Dave is included in this Sports report.

Hi everyone,

I just wanted to let you all know how excited I am to take over the 4/5 cricket team. Having played cricket all my life, I feel I can assist the boys not only improve their skills, but to enjoy their cricket and being part of the Trinity Gardens Cricket team.

We are fortunate enough to have tremendous facilities at our disposal and I would love to get full use out of the nets. With that in mind, I invite any interested parent to become involved at training or game day. I'm keen to make sure that we have scorers every weekend and to rotate the umpiring if possible. To the parents, please introduce yourselves and let me know if you are able to assist in scoring, coaching or umpiring. Your assistance will ensure we have a wonderful season that the boys can really enjoy.

Also, I encourage any year 3 boy who is interested to join the team but to seek clarification from Ros or me. If parents have any questions you can contact Ros or me.

Kind regards
Dave Sutton
Cricket Coach

SPORT NEWS

Our children and staff were very busy during our Vacation Care program in the recent school holidays going on excursions and engaging with numerous exciting activities on home days. The excursions to the Living Kaurna Cultural Centre and the Port River dolphin cruise proved to be very popular.

We are seeking interested parents/caregivers to join our OSHC Advisory Committee which meets twice every term at 6 pm in the hall.

Please contact Ros or Edwina if you would like to seek more information about or join this dynamic school committee.

The contact number for OSHC is 8332 6901.

OSHC NEWS

VIRTUES OF THE WEEK

Week 1 - Assertiveness

Being assertive means being positive and confident. You are aware that you are a worthy person with your own special gifts. You think for yourself and express your own ideas. You know what you stand for and what you won't stand for. You expect respect.

Week 2 - Creativity

Creativity is the power of imagination. It is a way to develop your special talents. Creativity is seeing something in a new way, and finding a different way to solve a problem. It is using your imagination to bring something new into the world. Creativity helps us to be all we can be.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Friday 23 October

Please note that order envelopes need only be returned to class on school photo day. Do not return order envelopes to the front office.

Thank you.

QUIZ NIGHT REMINDER

Make sure you have your babysitter booked!

Share Your Thoughts on Parenting

Share your thoughts and ideas about parenting and programs to support parents, as part of a project conducted by the Parenting and Family Support Clinic (PFSC) at the University of Queensland. We are looking for parents of a 2-10 year old child to complete a survey and view some short videos about parenting programs P. The study is available online at: https://exp psy. uq.edu.au/engagement. Alternatively if you reside in the Brisbane metropolitan area, you can complete the study at the PFSC by contacting Faye Nitschke (Email: faye. nitschke@uqconnect.edu.au or Ph: 07 3365 7307).